Cuba Seeking Trade For 'CIA Agent'

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Cuba is willing to release an alleged CIA agent in exchange for a woman who has been in an American jail for 20 years after taking part in a shooting spree by Puerto Rican nationalists in Congress, officials said yesterday.

So far, the officials said, there is no indication as to how the administration will respond to the offer by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Castro's offer was interpreted as a deliberate effort to ingratiate himself with Puerto Rican nationalists, who are opposed to continued U.S. possession of the island.

Officials noted that it also comes at a time when there is growing sentiment among Latin American nations for lifting the diplomatic and economic sanctions imposed on Cuba by the Organization of American States in 1964 under pressure by the United States.

The woman, Lucinda Lebron, 55, was one of four Puerto Rican nationalists who fired pistols at random from a spectators' gallery in the House in March, 1954.

The alleged CIA agent Castro is offering to trade for her freedom is Lawrence Lunt, who went to Cuba in the early 1960s. He was arrested in 1965, was convicted of espionage and was given a 30-year prison sentence. He has been in jail since.